United Nations A/RES/72/195

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2018

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 107

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/440)*]

72/195. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and sustainable development,

Reiterating its concern that, despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional and national levels, trafficking in persons remains one of the grave challenges facing the international community, which also impairs the enjoyment of human rights and needs a more concerted collective and comprehensive international response,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[1] which reaffirms the commitment by Member States to take immediate and effective measures to, inter alia, eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and human trafficking,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3] which provided the definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of

[1] Resolution 70/1.
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

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the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[4] and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,[5]

Taking note of the adoption of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), of the International Labour Organization, which recognizes that trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour is the subject of growing international concern,

Recalling the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

Reaffirming that the Global Plan of Action was developed:

(a) To promote universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,

(b) To help Member States to reinforce their political commitments and legal obligations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

(c) To promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons,

(d) To promote a human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approach in addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and strengthening the criminal justice response, which are necessary to prevent trafficking in persons, protect its victims and prosecute its perpetrators,

(e) To raise awareness within the United Nations system and also among States and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society and the international and national mass media, and the public at large,

(f) To foster cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned,

Recalling its resolutions 61/180 of 20 December 2006, 64/178 of 18 December 2009, 67/190 of 20 December 2012, 68/192 of 18 December 2013 and 70/179 of 17 December 2015 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and its other relevant resolutions on trafficking in persons,[6]

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/18 of 6 July 2017 on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and previous Council resolutions on trafficking in persons,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 32/3 of 30 June 2016, entitled "Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: protecting victims of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking, especially women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations",[7] and other relevant resolutions of the Council on trafficking in persons,

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[4] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

[5] Ibid., vol. 266, No. 3822.

[6] Resolutions 55/67, 58/137, 59/166, 61/144, 63/156 and 63/194.

[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/71/53), chap. V, sect. A.

Welcoming the adoption of the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 27 and 28 September 2017,[8]

Taking note of the reference to preventing and countering trafficking in persons and the victim-oriented approach in the context of addressing trafficking in persons in the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Doha from 12 to 19 April 2015,[9]

Welcoming the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants[10] at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2016, in which States declared that they would, with full respect for their obligations under international law, vigorously combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling with a view to their elimination, including through targeted measures to identify victims of human trafficking or those at risk of trafficking, provide support for the victims of human trafficking and work to prevent human trafficking among those affected by displacement,

Recognizing the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, comprising the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commisssioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, in fostering coordination and cooperation in the global fight against trafficking in persons, within their existing mandates,

Recognizing also that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, within its mandate, contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, taking note with appreciation of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as coordinator of the Coordination Group, as well as the activities of the members of the Coordination Group acting on a rotational basis as Chair of the working group of the Coordination Group, and encouraging the more robust participation of all members of the Coordination Group,

Recalling that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group was established to foster cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating human trafficking in countries around the world using, to the extent possible, mechanisms already in place at the regional and national levels, and to share information, experiences and good practices relating to the activities of the partner agencies to counter trafficking with Governments, international and regional organizations and other relevant bodies,

[8] Resolution 72/1.
[9] Resolution 70/174, annex.
[10] Resolution 71/1.

Emphasizing the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, particularly in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations,

Recognizing the need to continue to foster a global partnership against trafficking in persons among all stakeholders and the need to continue to work towards an enhanced comprehensive and coordinated approach to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

Recognizing also the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on good practices, of Governments and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Stressing the need to take appropriate measures to ensure access to justice and protections for victims in criminal justice processes, including measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked and that they do not suffer from victimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, communities and families,

Recognizing that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for effectively countering the threat of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Recognizing also that victims of trafficking are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as national or social origin, and that these forms of discrimination may themselves fuel trafficking in persons, and that women and children without nationality or without birth registration are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

Recognizing further the potential of the Internet and other information and communications technologies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims, stressing the need for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard to address the new challenges generated by the rapid development of the Internet and other information and communications technologies, and expressing concern that human traffickers have used the Internet and other technologies to facilitate trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of exploiting women and children, and to recruit and control victims,

Stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of trafficking in persons and to reintegrate victims into the community, including by taking into account, where appropriate, the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking[11] and the commentary thereon developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking developed by the United Nations Children's Fund,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to

[11] E/2002/68/Add.1.

address the problem of trafficking in persons, including women and children as the most vulnerable group, and emphasizing the urgent need for them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation to build the evidence base, including by sharing their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Affirming that capacity-building is a very important component in combating trafficking in persons, and in this regard stressing the need to intensify international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons, as well as technical assistance for countries aimed at strengthening their ability to prevent all forms of trafficking, including supporting their development programmes,

Taking note of the Khartoum process and its Declaration adopted in Khartoum on 16 October 2014 during the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, coordinated by the African Union, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, which aimed to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation and build capacities in the African countries to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling,

Taking note also of the Second Work Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015–2018, adopted by States members of the Organization of American States at the Fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on 4 and 5 December 2014 in Brasilia,

Recognizing that the Global Plan of Action and the establishment of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, aim at raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and at providing them with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the importance of humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, including through governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[12]

Taking note with appreciation of the joint report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[13]

Recognizing that, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is established to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[2] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish

[12] A/71/119.
[13] A/72/164.

Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

2. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders mentioned in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[14] and invites the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal;

3. *Recalls* the holding of the high-level meetings of the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013, and during its seventy-second session, on 27 and 28 September 2017, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which, inter alia, reiterated strong political will to step up efforts against trafficking in persons;

4. *Also recalls* its decision to appraise, from within existing resources, on a four-year basis starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments;

5. *Further recalls* its decision to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed annually, and, while welcoming events held by Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society at the international, regional and national levels to mark the World Day, invites all stakeholders to continue to observe the World Day in order to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the situation of the victims of this crime and for the promotion and protection of their rights;

6. *Expresses solidarity with and compassion for* victims and survivors of trafficking in persons, and calls for the full respect of their human rights and the provision of appropriate care, assistance and services for their rehabilitation in cooperation with civil society and other relevant partners;

7. *Expresses support* for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, reaffirms its request to the Secretary-General to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Office for the purpose of providing assistance to Member States upon request;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside the United Nations system and to invite such organizations and interested Member States to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and to keep Member States informed of the schedule of and the progress made by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group;

9. *Takes note* of the consultative briefings for Member States hosted by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group at United Nations Headquarters in March and September 2017 on the work and priorities of the Coordination Group in 2017 and beyond, and welcomes the participation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the briefings as the first regional organization to partner with the Coordination Group;

[14] Resolution 64/293.

10. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, as a matter of priority, to convene a meeting of the Coordination Group at the level of principals of the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, including those agencies that are not active members of the Coordination Group, in order to drive progress in the coordination of activities, with a view to promoting the efficient and effective use of resources while avoiding duplication across agencies and organizations, including in the context of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] relevant to preventing and combating trafficking in persons in order to achieve tangible results;

11. *Requests* the principals or key officials of the member agencies of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, subsequent to the meeting of the Coordination Group at the level of principals, to hold briefings at their headquarters to inform their member States and other relevant partners about the outcome of the meeting and future activities of the Coordination Group;

12. *Requests* the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to work closely with the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the United Nations System to compile and develop sets of indicators on trafficking relevant to different and specific contexts and agreed methods for data collection;

13. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to further strengthen their activities related to the implementation of relevant international instruments and the Global Plan of Action to drive greater progress in eliminating trafficking in persons, and invites Member States and other international and bilateral donors to provide voluntary contributions to the Office for these purposes, in accordance with the policies, rules and procedures of the United Nations;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration new methods of recruiting victims of trafficking in persons, such as the use of the Internet by traffickers, in particular for recruiting children, to take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of human trafficking and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;

15. *Invites* Member States to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters, sexual violence, gender discrimination and social exclusion and marginalization, as well as a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, youth and children;

16. *Calls upon* Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, through partnerships, as appropriate, to increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing on the demand and supply chains that foster all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons;

17. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as well as with other relevant special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the

Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons in all its forms, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, especially concerning children, and to condemn these practices and to investigate, prosecute and penalize traffickers and intermediaries while providing protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking with full respect for their human rights, and invites Member States to continue to support those United Nations agencies and international organizations that are actively involved in victim protection;

19. *Notes* the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs and relevant mechanisms on trafficking in persons, held in Bangkok on 21 and 22 May 2014, co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the establishment of an informal network of such mechanisms located all over the world to address trafficking in persons in a consistent manner and to exchange information and best practices built on different national experiences, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to collect information on national efforts to combat trafficking in persons, as well as relevant national mechanisms, and make up-to-date information available to Member States;

20. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to encourage contributions by States and all other relevant stakeholders to the trust fund;

21. *Welcomes* the biennial publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, looks forward to the next such report to be produced by the Office in 2018, pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, and encourages Member States to provide to the Office evidence-based data on patterns, flows and forms of trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of the removal of organs;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, including recommendations on measures to bring greater urgency to and improve the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons.

73rd plenary meeting
19 December 2017